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**Department of Public Utilities Approves New Transmission Lines
for Carver, Middleborough, Rochester and Wareham**
Decision cuts costs and improves reliability for region's electricity customers

BOSTON – The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) today approved NSTAR Electric Company's request to construct and operate new transmission equipment in Carver, Middleborough, Rochester and Wareham, paving the way for system upgrades that will maintain service reliability for the region's residents and businesses while greatly reducing the need to operate the Mirant Canal LLC power plant in Sandwich.

This project is part of a plan designed to increase the ability of the transmission system to import needed power to serve southeastern Massachusetts. It will provide important economic benefits by displacing the need to operate local generation resources when lower cost power is available elsewhere. Today's DPU approval allows southeastern Massachusetts to import power to fully meet system peak load for most of the year without relying on local generation.

"Today's DPU Order is a critical first step in addressing reliability and cost issues facing residents of southeastern Massachusetts," DPU Chairman Paul J. Hibbard said. "The transmission system upgrades approved in this Order will cut costs for ratepayers by reducing

the need to operate the Canal plant. Through the new transmission lines, customers will benefit from less expensive alternatives without sacrificing power supply reliability.”

Specifically, today’s Order will allow NSTAR Electric to expand its Carver Substation in order to connect a 345-kilovolt transmission line that currently passes by on an adjacent right of way, and to add a new 115-kilovolt transmission line from Carver Substation to Tremont Substation in Wareham. The new transmission line would run on existing poles in an existing right of way. NSTAR Electric also will modify the Carver Substation and Tremont Substation to connect the new 115-kilovolt transmission line.

The DPU also approved NSTAR Electric’s request for exemption from the Zoning By-Laws of Carver and Wareham in order to expand facilities at the two electric substations. According to the Order, the department found that NSTAR Electric’s plan includes measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts with respect to the construction and operation of the transmission line and the expanded substations.

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